

**FIVE COUNTY
LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Minutes**

April 20th, 2011, 11:30 am - 1:00 p.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South Bldg B

St. George, UT 84770

<u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>REPRESENTING:</u>
Vice Chair Ray Sim	Iron County Care and Share
Officer Johnny Heppler	St. George City Police Department
Faye Hubbard	Department of Workforce Services
Stephanie Volker (on phone)	Southwest Center Behavioral Health
Jane Lewis	Five County CAP
Colleen Tucker	Job Corps
Frank Yoder	Resource & Re-entry Center
Sherri Dial	Five County AOG
Rueben Garcia	Dixie Care & Share
Kent Thurgood	St. George LDS Church/Transient Services
Britton Lund	Washington County Library
Judy Kempter & Xochitl Cuara	SUU Head Start
Michelle Poast	Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation
Holly Malnar	DOVE Center
Jean Goode	Family Support Center Safety Net Program
Linda Timmins	NAMI – Mental Illness
Valerie Rogers	Dixie Regional Medical Center
Paul Dunsdon	American Red Cross
Stanley Cain	American Red Cross
Tara McFadden (on phone)	Continuum of Care
Paula Claymore	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Al Hernandez	Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
Cameron Hatch	Dept. of Veteran's Affairs
<u>Excused</u>	
Chair Ben Nickle	St. George City Council
Lloyd Pendleton	State Office of Community Culture
Tami Fullerton	Juvenile Justice
Teresa Banks	Department of Workforce Services
Lamont Royer	LDS Humanitarian Services
LuWenn Jones	Disability Law Center & Utah DD Council
Heidi Miller	Cedar City Housing Authority
Bob Green	Washington County School District
Diane Sheridan	Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center
Lynn Jorgensen	Veterans Administration
Patricia Sheffield	Children's Justice Center
Jan Thompson	Department of Workforce Services
Jessica Rivera	St. George Soup Kitchen
Keisha Greenwell	St. George Housing Authority
<u>Absent</u>	
Dottie Higley	Color Country Housing
Ty Tippetts	Color Country Housing

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Ray Sim with the Iron County Care & Share welcomed all members in attendance. Ray asked all in attendance to state their name and announce which agency they are representing. Ray welcomed Ms. Stephanie Volker on the telephone, representing Southwest Behavioral Health Center and Tarra McFadden from the State Office.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Frank Yoder with Resource and Re-Entry asked to be added on the agenda to present a power point presentation. Ray welcomed a motion to accept the current agenda and the minutes from February 16th meeting.

A motion was made by Frank Yoder to approve the February 16th, 2011 Minutes meeting and the Agenda, seconded by Kent Thurgood. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

HPRP/TANF Information

Ray turned the time to Ruben Garcia to share with the committee information about the HPRP and TANF programs. Mr. Garcia announced that in the first quarter of 2011 the Dixie Care & Share has served 22 households with 87 individuals under the TANF program. The amount spent with the TANF program was \$18,395. The HPRP program served 24 households with 36 individuals. The amount spent with the HPRP program was \$19,242. Ruben stated the total served between both programs was 46 households and 123 individuals. The total amount spent with both programs together was \$37,637. Jane Lewis asked Ruben how much money Dixie Care & Share was taken back by the state. Ruben responded that he did not know at this time.

Ray informed the committee that the Iron County Care & Share has served 45 households 172 individuals. The total financial assistance with the TANF program was \$47,500. Ray explained with the HPRP program 53 households and 139 individuals were served. The amount spent was \$60,900. HPRP funding is scheduled to end March of 2012. The TANF program is anticipated to end in 9 months. Mr. Sim explained the state requires Grantees to have 60% of their HPRP money needed to be spent by a specific time or the money would be reallocated. The state reallocated \$25,000 from Iron County Care & Share to support the homeless in other areas of the state from the rapid re-housing funds. HPRP will end in a year.

Paula Claymore commented that she referred a family to the Iron County Care & Share and the family was unable to receive assistance because they did not meet the criteria of homelessness. The HPRP money have specific criteria, if a family is staying with family or friends they are not considered homeless and are therefore not eligible to receive financial assistance. Mr. Sim explained that the Care & Share does not have control over the qualifications individuals and families need to meet. A person who is "couch surfing" or living with other family members is not homeless by the HPRP guidelines. They needed homeless prevention funds and the funds for that program are much lower about 1,3-1,400 dollars a month and ICCS is maxed out on these funds. Paula said she was going to have the family stay at the shelter but was told there was a bed bug problem. She asked at the Dixie Shelter and they said the Cedar also had a bed bug problem. Ray assured her that there was no bed bug problem in Cedar City. The funds are not limitless. ICCS can help about 2-3 families each month. Jane commented that Five County CAP worked hard to help ICCS and Dixie Care and Share to keep the funds in the area. The problem will continue past the time we have the funding allocated. We need to find other resources.

Frank Yoder commented there is a need for more housing. Frank announced that Resource & Re-Entry is working on getting more housing available. Resource & Re-Entry is working on a process to fund property near Quail Creek to provide housing. Piute Housing authority has a

housing list and Ray wondered what the waiting list is for this list. A tribal housing criterion looks at disability, tribal membership and homelessness. If the person has a felony then they will not be offered housing.

Tarra McFadden introduced Jayme Day who provided the information that \$94,000 from the Dixie Care & Share was taken back from the state from the rapid housing and homeless prevention programs. Mr. Sim stated \$120,000 was taken back by the state from the five county area. Mr. Sim explained the TANF program requirements are different from the requirements for the HPRP program. TANF only allows up to 4 months rental assistance to families. TANF also requires there to be children in the home and there needs to be a reasonable expectation that the family will not remain homeless.

Another pot of funds is the TANF funds but this money also requires that the family have a child under 18 and be able to quickly begin to pay their own rent. TANF has a maximum of 4 months of funding. If the funds pay some back rent that does not provide much help.

Poverty Simulation

Ray turned the time to Jane Lewis to talk about the Poverty Simulation that is going to be held on April 26th. Jane commented she has been asking public officials and community leaders to attend the Simulation. Jane announced that KBYU TV will be filming the poverty simulation and will be interview participants. The Poverty Simulation is designed to educate individuals what it is like to live in poverty. Jan passed out registration forms for those that would like to attend. The Poverty Simulation will be broadcast on television sometime in May. Ms. Lewis provided invitation letters for those on the committee that would like to invite someone.

There is also a photographer working statewide to put together a photo layout of people in Utah who live in poverty. This project will be display around the state to show examples of people who have been through difficult times. The photos will help put a human face on the need of people living in poverty. There are two local individuals who are included in the project.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) & Social Services Block Grant

Ray turned the time to Sherri Dial to speak about the SSBG & CSBG grants. Sherri explained what the Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) and Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) requirements include. SSBG is not going to be cut in funding for FY 2011. The CSBG funds were cut about 3% for FY 2011. The application for both funding sources will be available on the Five County CAP website. There is know way to know how much money is going to be received for both programs in FY2012 but the application process is started. Sherri informed the committee that CSBG funds for FY 2012 will be cuts and could be cut up to 50%.

St. George Police Department

- **Law Enforcement and the homeless**

Ray turned the time over to Officer Johnny Heppler with the St. George City Police Department. Officer Heppler explained that he works in the Administrative Services Division and has been directly working with the Chief of Police for the past year. Officer Heppler works a lot with public information services. Officer Heppler explained the law enforcement perspective in dealing with homelessness in the area. Officer Heppler commented he would like to answer any questions the committee has so that providers can better understand what the perimeters are and the services law enforcement are able to assist with.

Officer Heppler told an experience about a man who was an "Urban Camper". This man was almost washed away in the floodwaters at the Dean Terry Dip. As officer Heppler was directing traffic around the wash he could her someone yelling for help. It was this homeless man. He

called for help and they were able to pull him from the wash. He had lost everything including one of his shoes. Another officer who was off duty but stopped to help he gave him the shoes off his feet and then took this man home to shower, eat and provided him with clothes and then puts him up in a hotel. Officers want to help and find a humane way to make sure the community is safe and that people feel safe. The relationship with the transient population can be adversarial at times the SGPd are compassionate and the care about the homeless population.

One of the things specifically the St. George Police Department has done is create a policy which designates a police officer to be the middleman between homeless persons and community resources. The Homeless Liaison Officer is responsible in their jurisdiction to maintain a list of assistance programs in the area for the homeless and meet with social services which provide assistance to the homeless. The officer is also to develop training to teach other officers in the department how to best interact with homeless individuals. They also keep a database of all the known homeless camps. When the PD come across a homeless encampment the department keeps all the belongings so that the individuals can have their belongings returned. The officers understand that many homeless individuals have mental health problems and are training officers about better methods to work with the homeless population.

Lt. Gordon McCracken is the designated homeless liaison. 435.627.4300 SGPd general phone

Q. Do you have interaction with the youth from Colorado City?

A. Yes Occasionally, more in the past. The youth would move into the same home and when there are 15 boys all living together there will be some problems. The interaction with the boys has dropped and is seldom a problem.

Q. Are you allowing people to maintain their homeless encampments?

A. It depends. If it is on private property and the property owners has expressed a concern about trespassing or littering then we will remove that. However we keep the property in the evidence room so if someone came back to their camp they could reclaim their property from the PD. If we find a camp and need to move the property we do not cite or arrest. If the property owner wants to pursue charges then the PD will press charges.

Al Hernandez from the Office of Veteran's Affairs mentioned that the Salt Lake liaison officer has created a card with the local resource information to hand out to people who are homeless. There is also a new project in SLC to have old parking meters converted into donation devices to collect funds for programs that help people who are homeless. This is to discourage panhandling but allow people to still donate.

Panhandling is not against the law in St. George. If they do a substantial amount of business they could be cited for doing business without a license. Also can be cited for loitering or disorderly conduct, if they are causing problems or obstructing passage. Typically the officers will ask the person to move on. Pan handling is protected under the freedom of speech laws.

Kent stated that he was told by a young man, who was homeless that the SGPd officers were the nicest officers than any other town he had been in.

Washington County Library

- **Homeless internet only library card**

Ray turned the time over to Britton Lund with the Washington County Library. Britton informed the committee of the services the Washington County Library provides. There have been individuals wanting to have the library open earlier and close later. The library now has wireless internet and everyone is welcome to come use it even in the parking lot. The library also has E-Books and many database learning materials. The library has a database that helps individuals work on their

language skills. Individuals may use the learning materials in preparation for getting Adult Education and receiving their GED. Britton passed out a letter for the committee members to give to service providers so they are aware of the services the library offers. The Five County CAP in corporation with the Washington County Library has made library cards to give out to individuals so they are able to have access to use the library and internet. Britton explained the importance of individuals having access to the internet. The internet allows individuals to have communication with their family as a support system. Having family as support can also help decrease the suicide rate. Britton explained that in order to receive a library card the individual needs to have a residential address and proof of identification and picture ID. The only time the library charges the individual money is when items are not returned. Any librarian can help with the resources.

It is important that anyone wanting the homeless library card understand that the cards are available through the programs that work with people who are homeless. The library is depending on the programs to have screened the individuals to not be eligible for a regular card. Individuals need an official picture ID and proof of residency in Washington County (mail that they received with their name at a Washington County address) to receive a library card. If they do not have these requirements remember they can use any of the resources of as long as the library is open. The only things they do not have access to are the electronic resources. If they qualify for services with a homeless program the program can get a card form Jane at Five County CAP and then provide that card to the homeless individual. The card needs to be brought to the library by an adult. This card allows them to long on to the internet for 2 hours a day.

If they want to take material with them, the library has materials that are called red liners because they are extra material that do not need to be checked out but can be borrowed. The homeless card is only good for 90 days and can only be renewed by Britton.

Q. Are there people at the library who can refer people with the card?

A. The library depend on the case managers form the homeless programs to provide the card. The librarian does not want to be deciding if they need service or why they just want to help.

Q. Is this Washington County only?

A. It is only Washington County currently. Each county has their own library system.

Q. Does the individual need ID for the Internet Only Card?

A. No, Id is not required because the referral card comes from the agencies.

Q. How do you know they are homeless?

A. I trust that you are only sending people with the card if they are homeless.

Q. Do you know if this is happening anywhere else in the State?

A. Salt Lake City has a program but not Salt Lake County. Salt Lake City has a bigger homeless population.

Q. Do you send people to the agencies to get a card?

A. There have been a few incidences where people have asked and the librarians send them to the Dixie Care and Share. Most of the time it seems like the people share information and know where to go.

If you need more cards contact Jane Lewis at Five County (673.3548) and she will provide them.

Resource & Re-Entry Presentation

The time was turned over to Frank Yoder representing Resource & Re-Entry. Frank explained that Resource & Re-Entry have created a power point to present to employers. Gail Newman presented

the power point presentation about the programs and services Resource & Re-Entry provide. 25% percent of US adults have some kind of criminal record on file. The current rate for release offenders returning to prison is 67½% for the US and 70% for Utah. Employment and a strong support network are things that keep offenders out of prison. Resource and Re-Entry helps prevent the offenders from returning to prison with volunteer mentoring during their journey to employment. Ms. Newman announced that out of Resource & Re-Entry's 44 clients only 2 have returned back to prison, that is a 4% recidivism rate. Mr. Yoder screens the individuals extensively to make sure the individual really wants to make positive changes in their life. Resource & Re-Entry introduces their clients with job skills and life-skills training. Some of the agencies that offer these programs are Job Corp, Department of Workforce Services and LDS Career Center. The mentors are informed of all these services and make a commitment to work with the client for up to 3 years. Resource & Re-Entry continues to work on transitional housing options. When an employer hires a client they may receive benefits. The employer gets a skilled employee and also there are incentives from the state and federal government. For example, \$2,000 from the Utah Back to Work program, \$1,200 – 9,000 from the Federal Opportunity tax credits, there is a free bonding program, reimbursement for the wage for on-the-job training, administrative support and resources from Resource and Re-entry Center.

Q. Is this program for x-felons?

A. it is for anyone who qualifies, the qualification are they have to want to change their life, no smoking, no drinking, no drugs and frank personally asks for no swearing. If they agree to those things and want to work at it we accept them.

Mr. Yoder announced that he plans to present the power point presentation and information to all of the employers in Southern Utah. Mr. Yoder stated that he has received very positive feedback and is in the process of training individuals to present the material. Ms. Jane Lewis requested to receive a copy of the power point presentation.

Job Corp

Ray turned the time to Colleen Tucker who is the admissions counselor for Job Corp. Job Corp is a free trade school for individuals between the ages of 16 – 24 years of age. This is a great program for people who are facing homelessness. Job Corps helps people get their GED or high school diploma and provides training in all different types of fields. Job Corps specialty is job certification; including, training in construction, health care, mechanic, culinary arts, and office administration. Colleen explained that the training allows an individual with more opportunity because they are better qualified for a job. Job Corp also provides free housing, food, and health insurance. The five locations are north of Salt Lake City; there is Clearfield and Weber Basin in Ogden, and three in Montana. There are 123 job corps centers across the U.S. There is also a single parent program where a single mother can have up to two kids. The single parent program is in Kansas and North Dakota. Transportation is also provided. Colleen announced that Job Corp now has a VA partnership. Any veteran 16-24 gets top priority to participate in Job Corp. The qualifications to do Job Corp are an individual must be 16-24 of age, pass a drug tests, need to be low-income, needs to be done with any court obligations, and it must be voluntary. Job Corp also helps find the individual a job after they have completed their training and during training they receive a living allowance.

Q. How is Job Corps Funded?

A. Job Corp is federally funded operated by the Department of labor. They have contracts all over the nation to handle the programs locally. Job Corps is a sister agency to Community Action and Head Start based on the same legislation.

Q. What is the time to get into the program?

A. It depends on where they are going, what they what to study and if they are male or female. There are more openings for females. It can take anywhere from 3 weeks to 3 months, average time to get into Job Corp is 2 months. They can stay up to three years if they are doing advanced training. The average student is there from 8-12 months. Average age is 18-19.

Q. in Northern Utah there are others like you?

A. There are several other people recruiting for Job Corp all over Utah.

Q. What if they are 24 when they start the program and then turn 25?

A. They just have to be 24 when they enter the program.

Q. is it true that if they have a documented disability they can enter the program older?

A. If there is a documented disability an individual can enter the program over the age 24.

Ending Homelessness County Subcommittees

Ray turned the time over to Sherri Dial. Sherri explained one of the concerns the state is having is how to coordinate to end chronic homelessness. Iron and Washington County are having the highest increase in homelessness. The idea the state suggested was to organize subcommittees in each county to help collaborate more with agencies and services available in the specific counties. The subcommittee would be tasked to coordinate services more effectively to provide housing.

The state suggested having specific agency representatives. Some of the agencies the state suggested for the Washington County subgroup included LDS Transient Services, Public Library, Washington County School District, Southwest Behavioral Health, Red Cross, Paiute Tribe, Veteran's Affairs, Justice Services, Police Department, DOVE Center, Resource & Re-Entry, Red Cross, Grace Episcopal Church, Dixie Care & Share, Color County Housing, and St. George Housing Authority. Ruben suggested that we get by in from the business leaders in our community not just agencies. The work group would focus on home to put housing into place in Washington County. Redevelopment people from the city should be involved in the planning.

It would be helpful to have someone who has done this already to give us some ideas so we are recreating the wheel. The Salt Lake County Housing Authority the City Housing Authority and the State office would be good resources.

A suggestion was made to use an old hotel to create low-income housing. Mr. Ray Sim announced that he thinks having subcommittees is a good idea but to have them on a regional level instead of by county.

Frank Yoder moved to create the Regional homeless housing subcommittee that will focus on Washington County. Seconded by Ray. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held June 15, 2011 at the Five County Association of Governments.